OUR GIRLS IN WARTIME

ES BY

DEN GORDON

PICTURES BY

JOYCE DENNYS

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LONDON JOHN LANE THE BODLEY HEAD

NEW YORK JOHN LANE COMPANY

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THE AUTHORS OF THIS BOOK OF RHYME
WILL YIELD TO NONE IN ADMIRATION
OF LADIES WHO GIVE ALL THEIR TIME
TO WORK THAT'S USEFUL TO THE NATION;
AND IF WE SHOW THEM IN A COMIC LIGHT
IT'S ONLY OUR ATTEMPT AT BEING BRIGHT.
IN TRUTH THESE PLEASANTRIES ARE MEANT
TO PLEASE
THE FAIR WAR-WORKER IN HER HOURS OF
EASE.

THE FAIR WAR-WORKER IN HER HOURS OF EASE

WINNIE IS A WINDOW-CLEANER.

AH! HOW OFTEN HAVE I SEEN HER,

WHEN TEMPTATIONS ROUND HER LURK,

PUT HER BACK INTO HER WORK

. . . . .

OR EVEN THROUGH IT.

THE FLAG-DAY GIRL IS DRESSED IN
WHITE
IN SUNSHINE OR IN SLEET.
SHE IS A MOST ATTRACTIVE SIGHT
WHEN VIEWED ACROSS THE STREET;
BUT DONT YOU GO TOO NEAR THAT
CHARMING SELLER
UNLESS YOUR NAME IS
RITZ P. ROCKËFELLER

MARTHA, A MUNITION-MAKER
MANUFACTURES SHELLS.
MARTHA'S FATHER IS A BAKER:
CAKES ARE WHAT HE SELLS.
MARTHA SWEARS THE SHELLS SHE MAKES
DO MORE DAMAGE THAN HIS CAKES.

. . . . .

PERHAPS.

PANSY RAN A KNITTING PARTY.

OH! THE THINGS THEY KNAT.

PANSY'S MEETINGS NEVER ENDED

AND RESULTS WERE SIMPLY SPLENDID,

I CAN SWEAR TO THAT,

SINCE FOR WEEKS WE USED THE SOCKS
SHE SENT
TO TAKE THE PLACE OF WIRE ENTANGLEMENT.

PENELOPE CHEERED WOUNDED HEROES
WITH DANCES AND AMATEUR PIERROTS
SHE'D SACRIFICE BEAUTY
TO STICK TO HER DUTY
AND WORKED UP TO MIDNIGHT
. . . . .
AT CIRO'S

N.B. I SAW HER THERE TO-DAY
ASSISTING THE Y.M.C.A.

DIANA IS A HUNTRESS BORN

ON HORSES DESPERATELY KEEN

WHO DID HER RIDING WITH THE QUORN.

SHE'S DONNED A MOST BECOMING KIT

(LOOK AT HER GAITERS, HOW THEY FIT)

AND NOW SHE IS THE REMOUNT QUEEN

. . . . .

I THINK PERHAPS I OUGHT TO MENTION

THE HORSES DO GET SOME ATTENTION.

LIZZIE LABOURS ON THE LAND.

WHAT SHE DOES I UNDERSTAND,

IS TO MAKE THE CATTLE DIZZY

RUNNING ROUND

. . . . .

ADMIRING LIZZIE.

THE LIFT GIRLS AT A CERTAIN STORE

(THE HAUNT OF ONE CALLISTHENES)

ARE ABSOLUTELY TOPPING:

I USED TO FIND IT QUITE A BORE,

BUT NOW THAT I'VE DISCOVERED THESE

I DO A LOT OF SHOPPING

\- - - - -

ALONE

CLARISSA TELLS YOU WHAT THE CLUB
CAN DO
TO MAKE TWO COURSES OUT OF SEVERAL
DISHES,
AND WHEN YOU'VE HALF A MIND TO RISK
THE STEW
ANTICIPATES YOUR WISHES.

SHE NEVER KEEPS YOU WAITING JUST
FOR SPORT,
WITHOUT A HITCH SHE BRINGS THE
GORGONZOLA,
SHE GLOWS WITH PLEASURE AS SHE
OFFERS PORT,
IN FACT, SHE IS A REGULAR TOP-HOLER
. . . . .

SOMETIMES.

MENU

BETTY ON A MOTOR 'BUS

COLLECTS YOUR PENNY FARE.

THAT SAGACIOUS SAILOR GUS

EVER SINCE HE SAW HER THERE

HAS SPENT HIS LEAVE AND THIRTY BOB BESIDES

IN NOTHING BUT 'BUS RIDES.

MAUDIE IS HER NAME, I'VE HEARD,

(I WOULD NEVER RISK ENQUIRING)

WHEN SHE OPE'D THE DOOR.....MY WORD!

I FELT VERY LIKE EXPIRING.

HENCEFORTH I SHALL NEVER DARE

PAY A CALL IN BERKELEY SQUARE

. . . . .

THE FROZEN EYE METHINKS!

AUNTIE FANNIE RAN A CAN-

-TEEN FOR TRAVEL-TIRED TOMMIES.

SUCH A FEAST THEY HADN'T SEEN

WHILE THEY SOJOURNED WHERE THE

LOVELY LADIES LADLED SOUP SOMME IS.

FIT FOR ANY TROCADERO'S.

EGGS AND BACON LOOPED THE LOOP

DOWN THE THROATS OF HUNGRY HEROES;

YOU'D HAVE THOUGHT NO MORTAL MAN

COULD GET THROUGH SO MUCH_SOME CAN!

\- - -

'SOME' CANTEEN!

SOUP

DORA DROVE A MOTOR VAN

AND SHE DROVE IT FASTER THAN

ANY ORDINARY MAN

DID DORA .

INTO SOMETHING DORA RAN ;

THUS SHE FOUND THAT PEOPLE CAN

SEE NOT ONLY STARS BUT AN

AURORA

- - - - -

BOREALIS .

DOLLY DOES LEDGERS BY THE SCORE
WITHIN A BANK'S DEPRESSING DOOR.
SHE SPENDS A DULL DULL DAY.
NO WONDER, WHEN HER WORK IS O'ER,
SHE GETS SO VERY GAY.
FEW GIRLS, I TRUST, INDULGE IN SUCH EXCESS
AS GOING ON THE BUST WITH AUNTIE BESS.

LECTURE.
ON
WAR COOKE
HOW TO MAKE
2 COURSES
OUT OF
NUT AND A
BANANA.
TELL YOUR F

CORDELIA IS A CONSTABLE

OF CUNNING AND RESOURCE.

SHE RUNS IN LOTS OF WORTHY FOLK

WITHOUT THE LEAST REMORSE.

IF YOU SHOULD SHOW A CHINK OF LIGHT

WHILE GETTING INTO BED

SHE RUSHES IN AND TAKES YOUR NAME

AND OH THE THINGS I'VE SAID!

. . . . .

I HATE CORDELIA!

LET THERE BE L

BELINDA IS A BARBER GIRL.

BEFORE THE WAR IT WAS A "SWISS"

WHO USED TO CUT MY ONLY CURL,

BUT NOW IT IS A MISS.

THE TIME HAS COME! THE HOUR IS RIPE!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE! I MUST BE BRAVE.

BELINDA IS THE SLASHING TYPE

AND I AM GOING TO HAVE A SHAVE.

. . . . .

HELP!

NESTA'S NURSING DOWN OUR WAY

V.A.D.

I MET NESTA YESTERDAY

AND HENCEFORWARD I SHALL PRAY

THAT D.V.

IN HER HOSPITAL I'LL STAY

IF SOME BITS OF BULLET STRAY

INTO ME

. . . . .

NESTA IF YOU SEE THIS LAY

R.S.V.P.

EILEEN, I HEAR, HAS COME TO TOWN.
SHE DRIVES A TAXI UP AND DOWN
WITH FASCINATING 'SWANK'.
ALREADY SHE'S BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH
(FIVE LAMP-POSTS AND A BROKEN CLUTCH)
THAT NOW SHE'S CALLED THE TANK!

THE WOMENS VOLUNTEER RESERVE

PARADE THE STREETS AND DO DESERVE

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

MYSELF, I STRIVE TO RECOGNISE

MY AUNT IN MILITARY GUISE,

AMAZING APPARITION !

BUT UP TILL NOW I'VE MET WITH NO SUCCESS.

I WISH I COULD REMEMBER HER ADDRESS

. . . . .

I WANT MY PUTTEES BACK

A CHEEKY BOY IT USED TO BE

WHO BROUGHT THE WIRE TELLING ME

THAT THE HORSE I FANCIED MOST

FAINTED AT THE STARTING POST.

. . .

NOW IT IS THE PERKY PAM

WHO BRINGS THE FATAL TELEGRAM

THOUGHTFULLY INSTRUCTING YOU

"EMBARK TONIGHT FOR TIMBUCTOO"

HOME
SWEET HOME

MIRANDA MIXED WITH ALL THE NOBS;
HER DEPOT MADE A MILLION SWABS
(WAR HOSPITAL SUPPLY).
"IT WAS THE GOOD HARD WORK," SHE SAID
"THAT TURNED MY HAIR THIS VIVID RED.
NEVER, MY DEARS, SAY DYE."

IF YOU WANT TO DROWN YOUR AUNT
NOWADAYS YOU SIMPLY CAN'T.
THRONGING EVERY COUNTRYSIDE
STRUTS THE MEDDLESOME GIRL GUIDE
SAVING LIFE'S ALL VERY WELL,
BUT WHY REVIVE AUNT ANNABEL?

IN THIS

TRIXIE TAKES YOUR TICKET WHEN

YOU'RE TRAVELLING BY TRAIN.

IT MUST BE VERY BORING AS A HABIT.

THOUGH A LITTLE MILD FLIRTATION

MAY RELIEVE THE SITUATION

I'D RATHER STAY AT HOME AND MIND

THE RABBIT!

OFF
WITH
FT FOOT.

FAIRIES IN ST JAMES' PARK!
FAIRIES IN WHITEHALL!
SEE THE LITTLE LADY CLERK
REIGNING OVER ALL!
AND THE FAIREST THAT I'VE SEEN
HOLDS HERSELF LIKE ANY QUEEN
TRIM AND SMART AND VERY KEEN
. . . . .
I MUST PAY A CALL.

O.H.M.S.

"I DONT KNOW WHAT DISPENSERS DO,
BUT DAPHNE DOES IT ALL DAY THROUGH.
NO MAN HER SKILL DISPUTES.
SHE DOES DISPENSE WITH SKILL, I GRANT,
BUT, NATURALLY, WHAT SHE CAN'T
DISPENSE WITH ARE - - HER BOOTS!"

Boots

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

OUR HOSPITAL A.B.

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